

BROADCAST 5197

DATE: September 25, 2008

TO: Local Directors and Child Protective Services, Foster Care and Adoption Workers and Supervisors

FROM: Paul D. McWhinney, Director, Division of Family Services
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SUBJECT: Introduction of New Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Measures

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As you may be aware, the second round of the CFSR began in 2007. Virginia is scheduled for its second CFSR on-site review the week of July 13, 2009. While most of the aspects of the CFSR remain the same, significant changes have been made to the child welfare outcomes and how they are measured.

In the past, the CFSR used individual data indicators for the child welfare outcomes. For the second round of reviews, the federal government has amended its approach to measuring permanency by introducing the use of a combination of new and old individual measures that are then aggregated into composites. The individual measures are similar to what you have seen on the Progress to Excellence Reports; a specific statement that addresses a desired outcome (for example, the percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months). The individual measures are then rolled up into composites. There are four permanency composites for which national standards have been developed: Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification; Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoption; Permanency Composite 3: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time; and Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability. A comprehensive explanation of these new measures can be found at: <http://spark.dss.virginia.gov/support/oasis/reports/cfsr/index.cgi>.

The safety measures have not changed, however they are now calculated to show the number of children not subject to abuse and neglect.

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has created an internal report that will be posted quarterly. This report will assume the place of the Progress to Excellence Report and will allow each locality to measure their performance on the various individual measures. This new CFSR data profile report can be found at <http://spark.dss.virginia.gov/support/oasis/reports/cfsr/index.cgi>

If you have any questions regarding the CFSR data profile reports, please contact Matt Wade at (804)-726-7941 or matthew.wade@dss.virginia.gov or Deborah Eves at (804)-726-7506 or deborah.eves@dss.virginia.gov.